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PATENT -

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Frank Eidam
FOR : **LOCKING RING**
SERIAL NO. : 10/699,902
FILED : November 3, 2003
EXAMINER : Unknown
ART UNIT : 3682
CONFIRMATION NO. : 4386
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : **BGEE 2 00025**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05-August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicant(s) has not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require(s) no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☐ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☒ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this

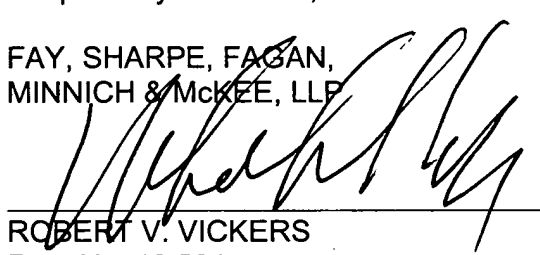
application. In accordance with § 609 MPEP, only copies of art not previously submitted are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

March 7, 2005
Date


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Seventh Floor
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

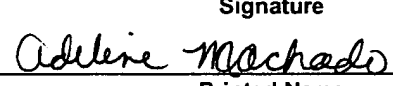
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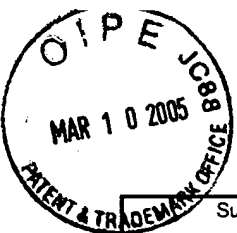
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S) | Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | Complete if Known | | |
| | Application Number | | 10/699,902 | | |
| | Filing Date | | November 3, 2003 | | |
| | First Named Inventor | | Eidam | | |
| | Art Unit | | 3682 | | |
| Examiner Name | | Unknown | | | |
| Sheet 1 of 1 | | Attorney Docket No. | | BGEE 2 00025 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. | Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known) | Publication/Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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